

Amendments to the Specification

- 1) **Abstract.** Please replace the abstract with the following to implement the change recommended by the examiner:

N.E.

ABSTRACT: A telephone (100) is configurable to automatically dial an area code selected from an area code selection pad (104). Once selected, the selected area code is automatically prepended to subsequent outgoing calls until a different area code is selected. A processor (212) implements a safety feature which overrides the automated system when emergency numbers are called. With this system, repetitive dialing of the area code for consecutive calls to the same area code is eliminated.

- 2) **Specification Body.** Please replace the paragraphs (referenced by the page and line in which the change is to be made) with the following replacement paragraphs. These changes are to implement the changes recommended by the examiner:

Paragraph with change implemented on Page 6, Line 15:

a/

FIG 2. shows a virtual keypad embodiment of the invention showing a telephone ~~100a~~ 100 with a standard keypad 102a and a virtual area code selection pad 104a on a display

Page 8, Line 12:

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The area code selection pad 104 contains push buttons for selecting area codes. The push buttons have two states:

a selected state and an unselected state. The push buttons are configured such that at most one of the buttons is selected. Each button is associated with a specific area code indicated by a label adjacent to the push button. For example, the typical push button 108 has an associated label 110. The label 110 is marked with the digits ``~~7-8~~
~~+01181~~'' , which indicates that the area code ~~7-8~~~~+01181~~ is associated with push button 108.

Page 10, Line 2:

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FIG. 2 shows a virtual keypad embodiment in which a telephone 100 includes a keypad ~~102~~102a and a display 118. On the display 118, physical push buttons are simulated by interactive pictorial images of push buttons which constitute virtual push buttons such as the typical virtual push button 108a. These virtual push buttons are generated by electrical circuitry that can be built by those skilled in the art.

Page 14, Line 6:

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Referring to FIG. 4, an electronic processor 212 is able to receive electrical signals corresponding to the digits 200 keyed in by the user and is also able to receive from non-volatile memory electrical signals corresponding to programmed special sequences of digits 204. The processor 212 is programmed to compare these two signals and produce different electrical outputs depending on whether this

comparison results in a match. These electrical outputs ultimately produce signaling codes 203a or 203b. Herein, ``signaling codes'' means codes representing a sequence of numbers used to identify a data path for connection to a remote telephone. These signaling codes ~~203~~ 203a or 203b may be the dual-tone signals of tone-dial telephones commonly in use at the time of this application, optical signals, or any other form of signals to identify a path.

Page 15, Line 15:

a3 If the result of step 202 is ~~no~~ a match, the special sequence is output verbatim in step 206a. Step 206a may run simultaneously in parallel with step 200. For example, a first keyed in digit ``1'' signifies to the processor 212 that the sequence must be a special sequence, and that the user is manually overriding the selected area code with a manually keyed in area code. Once this fact is established, all keyed in digits 200 may be immediately passed through verbatim as they are entered so that the transmission of the digits to initiate the call may begin without the delay of waiting for the whole sequence to be input.

Page 16, Line 1:

a4 If the result of step 202 is ~~yes~~ no match, the selected area code prefix from the list of programmed numbers 210 is retrieved from storage and transmitted before the manually keyed input in step 206b. This area code prefix had been

previously selected in step 209 from a stored list 210.
Step 206b may also run simultaneously in parallel with step 200. For example, a sequence of digits ``965'' currently is sufficient in the conventional US telephone system to signify to the processor 212 that the sequence is not a special sequence, and that the user's likely intent is to use the currently selected area code. Once this fact is established, the selected area code prefix can be transmitted, followed by all keyed in digits as they are entered. This minimizes the delays in waiting for the whole sequence to be input.

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